

A N ¹⁴⁶²
APOLOGY
FOR THE
CONDUCT
AND
WRITINGS
OF

^K
Mr. C—s L—s, Apothecary;

WHEREIN

The seeming Oddity of his setting up, and recommending himself to the Freemen and Citizens of D-BL-N, as the only fit Person to represent them in Parliament, is clearly accounted for.



IN
A LETTER to a Friend.



D U B L I N :

Printed in the Year M D C C X L I X.

(Price One Penny.)

Sept 1792
22. 8. 4. 5.

APOLOGY FOR THE CONDUCT AND WRITINGS

Mr. C. D. Apothecary;

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 A LETTER to a Friend.

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TO THE
PUBLISHER.

SIR,

THIS Letter was found in a Coffee-house in this City some Months ago, and, as you will see by the Date of it, was written upon L——'s first setting himself up; which it will be necessary to let the Publick know.

As I am a Stranger to the Writer, and as it came accidentally into my Hands, I shall make no Apology to him for printing it; because, whether my doing so be agreeable to him, or not, I am sure it mentions some real Matters of Fact, which will enable the Publick to judge of this Candidate's real Character, better than any Thing yet printed on that Subject.

I am your's, &c.

P——R——.



TO THE
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SIR,

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As I am a stranger to the Writer, and as it comes accidentally into my hands, I shall make no apology to you for printing it; because, whether my doing so be agreeable to you or not, I am sure it mentions some real Names of Men, which will make the Publick to judge of the Character, and Character, better than any Thing yet printed on that Subject.

I am, Sir, &c.

P-R



A N

APOLOGY, &c.

D-bl-n, Sept, 27th, 1748,

S I R,

YOU tell me in your's of the 22d Instant, that People, in your Parts, are exceedingly surprized, that our old Acquaintance O—s L—s (one, say they, no way considerable for Family, Fortune, or Understanding) should have the Confidence, not only to set himself up as a Candidate to represent this great City in Parliament, but also should publickly insist upon, and exhibit, his own singular Merit, and Sufficiency, for that high Trust, and the Demerit, and Insufficiency, of every other Competitor.

I own the Thing may well seem strange to those who are not thoroughly acquainted with the real Character of the Man; but, at the same Time, I must inform you, that I am so far from being surprized at it, that I have been apprehensive, for some Years past, that his whimsi-

cal,

cal, restless, and enterprizing Temper, would have put him upon Extravagancies, far more dangerous to the Publick, than this idle and impotent Ambition of his can possibly be.

I need not remind you of the Regard which I have formerly paid to his Merit as an Apothecary, or of my present Concern for his numerous, distress'd Family. It is from these Considerations that I now feel so much Pain in telling you (what, if I had endeavour'd to conceal, you would * soon learn from public Fame) that our unhappy Friend is actually gone beside himself; but that he is sensible enough of his Misfortune at certain Intervals; in one of which he has long since confess'd, even in Print †, "That it would be Madness in him to deny it." And has assured us, at the same Time, from his own Experience ‡, "That there is a Pleasure in Madness, which none but Madmen know."

Tho' I fear your trouble will be great at receiving this Piece of Intelligence, yet I am sure your Surprize won't be so, when you recollect the many Evident Marks, if not of actual Madness, at least of a great Tendency thereto, which you must have formerly discover'd in him, on various Occasions. But as your long Absence from this City has hinder'd you from being a Witness of the gradual and daily Increase of his Distemper, give me Leave to present you, from Time to Time, with a brief History of the Rise and Progress of it, by which you may be enabled to assist me in my Endeavours, to restore him to his lost Reason; or, if that can't be done, to prevent, by some Means or other, his still prosecuting those wild and impracticable Schemes, which have been hitherto so destructive to him; and which, if persisted in but a short Time longer, will bring inevitable Ruin on his innocent and helpless Family.

While he lived, as an Apprentice, with Mr. K—g,
now,

* This was prophetic, for it has been lately publish'd in Ballads, Letters, Addresses, and other Pamphlets.

† Divelina Libers, Page 80. And yet he there immediately subjoins, "No Man knows, or confesses, himself so." An Inconsistency agreeable to such a Character.

‡ Ibid. Page 81.

now an Alderman of this City (at which Time I first became acquainted with him) he did, indeed, behave himself soberly, and honestly enough, save only a little Petulance, and self-sufficiency, which used now, and then, to break out upon him. But that Mr. K——g was kind enough to overlook, because he was, in the general, tollerably civil, and seem'd, upon the whole, to be a sprightly hopeful young Man. But immediately upon his setting up for himself, some very strong Symptoms of his present Disorder, began to shew themselves in all his Actions, and Discourses. I will not trouble you, with an Account of such of these Symptoms, as appeared in his private Intercourse with his Family and Friends, many of which you have been Witness to. But what first gave rise to the common Rumour, of his being a little wrong-headed (for that was the then Phrase) was of a very publick Nature. It was his getting printed, in all the News-papers of this City, at his first opening Shop, a * *Latin* Advertisement, wherein he recommended, in a particular manner, the Excellency of his Medicines, to all those who might have Occasion for them. I know it was then strongly suspected by us, his Friends, that this Rumour was raised, and propagated, by some of his Brother-Apothecaries, thro' Envy of the little smattering of *Latin*, which he intended, by that Means, to let the Publick see he had got, and which they had not the least Pretension to. But, however that might have been, it is certain, that many indifferent reasonable People, at that Time, look'd upon the Thing as very extraordinary; and some of them even said, that they could not conceive how any Tradesman, in his Senses, could hope to persuade Customers to make use of his Shop (which is the Drift of all such Advertisements) by addressing them in a Language, which not one, in five thousand of them, had any Knowledge of.

Whether it was owing to this, or any other imprudent step in his Beginning, that Matters did not thrive with him, or to Misfortune only, I will not say; but it is well known, that, in a very short Time after his setting up,

* This Fact is notorious, and can be attested by great Numbers still living. It happen'd about the Year 1734-5.

he became a Bankrupt, and fled into *England*; having left his perplex'd Affairs, and distress'd Family, in the Care of a Friend, who did him singular Services on that, and many other Occasions; all which, however, he, in the gradual Decay of his Faculties, soon after forgot. And, from this Period, we may date the first visible Appearances of utterly lost Reason in him. For no sooner had he got to *London*, than, fancying himself, of a sudden, endowed with all those rare, and excellent Talents, which are requisite to form a Dramatic Poet, he set himself down to write a Play, which he finish'd in a few Weeks, and which, indeed, was as plentifully stuffed with extravagant and frantic Conceits, as that, which *Nat. Lee*, in the height of his Madness, is said to have scrawl'd with Charcoal on the Walls of *Bedlam*, can be supposed to have been. I need not inform you how imprudently he solicited, importuned, and even bully'd the different Companies of Players there, to have this Play exhibited on their Stage, for his Benefit; nor how peremptorily, and disdainfully, both he, and it, were rejected by them. Of that Affront you have often heard himself complain, since his return, in such a furious strain of Resentment, as no rant in modern Tragedy can equal. But I must not forget to acquaint you, of what I have since privately learn'd, and from good Hands too, that his Pride was then so grievously shock'd, by the Disappointment, that he fell into an actual Phrenzy upon it, under which he labour'd two entire Months; being all that Time ry'd, and confined to a dark Room, Water-gruel, and a Bed of Straw.

When his Phrenzy began to abate (which it did soon after an offer of Composition arriv'd from his Creditors in *Ireland*) he immediately return'd to his House, and Family in *Dublin*; but now disdainful to follow the humble Business he was bred to, and vehemently aspiring to the Illustrious Character, if not of a Poet (which he found he was not to expect) at least of an Orator, and Patriot; he was perpetually deafening his Wife, and Family, with most exorbitant Praises of the ancient Sages of *Greece*, and *Rome*; with the glorious (as he call'd it) Immortality of their Names, and with frequent ejaculatory Wishes, mix'd with the strongest Hopes, that the like Blessings might be hereafter granted to his own. And so constantly did

did he rave on this Subject, that, at length, imagining he had already attain'd that Immortality, he almost starved himself, and Children, to Death, by neglecting his proper Occupation as an Apothecary, from which alone he drew his, and their temporary Support.

One Evening, as I was viewing some Pictures, newly hung up in the * Parlour, behind his Shop, which, tho' of youthful Aspects, were † bald, and seem'd to have been design'd for Antiques, I simply ask'd him, where he had gotten those Heads of beardless Philosophers? And, unwarily, observed to him, that the Foolishness of their Faces, and Venerableness of their Air, made a pretty ridiculous Contrast. It was very happy for me, at that Juncture, that the large and frequent Bleedings, Purgings, and Blisterings, which he had lately undergone in London, had reduced him so low, as to prevent his falling into a raging Fit of Madness on that Occasion. And tho' indeed, he did at first a little startle me, by a wild stare, and violent stamp of his Foot, repeating the Words "Foolish Faces," with a most indignant Grin; yet my Fears were soon after abated, when I saw him cast a Look at me, which shew'd more of Contempt, than of Anger, and heard him exclaim, at the same time, with a Theatrical Air, and Tone of Voice, "Is it possible that you, who have so long known me, and whom I have honoured with my particular Friendship, can be so blind, or stupid, as not to see, at one Glance, the glaring Likeness of all these Heads to † MINE OWN, their ORIGINAL? Is not that (pointing to one of them) my awful Frown! my irresistibly commanding Look! which, thou knowest, hath so often shaken the very Benches of Aldermen, and Judges? See'st thou not in that Smile (pointing to another) Persuasion's whole collected Force? by which, as by a magic Charm, and without uttering one Intelligible Sentence, I have drawn over such Multitudes to my Opinion? In a Word, Is there

* In Ch-rl.s-street; now the Bull-head Ale-house.

† This Fact can be attested by many, who were then of his Acquaintance; and, for ought I know, the Pictures are yet to be seen in his House.

‡ A favourite Phrase of his.

“ there not in each of these Pieces, tho’ differently ex-
 “ press’d, what all Mankind, but thy wife self, are pleas’d
 “ to defer in this foolish FACE of mine.” Silence that
 speaks, and Eloquence of Eyes! — “ But, perhaps,
 (added he, after a Pause) “ thy Simplicity may have
 “ overlook’d the striking Similitude which these Heads
 “ bear to mine, through Ignorance of my Design in
 “ having them drawn in this antique Form — or, per-
 “ haps, on a silly supposition, that I would have been
 “ content, like the ignoble Vulgar, with having only one
 “ of them drawn for me! — Know, therefore, as to the
 “ first; that, resolving to anticipate, in my Life Time,
 “ those unspeakable Pleasures, which we, IMMOR-
 “ TALS, enjoy after Death, from the due Homage of
 “ our surviving Countrymen, I could not think of having
 “ my likeness taken in any other Form but that, in
 “ which we revered a *PLATO*, a *TULLY*, and a
 “ *DEMOSTHENE*s! — And, as for the Num-
 “ ber of these Pieces, know, likewise, that they are all,
 “ like their ORIGINAL, destin’d to publick, and im-
 “ portant Uses! — For with *this*, I intend to honour
 “ the *Blue-Coat* Hospital, when I am constituted sole
 “ Governor, and Manager of it — *That*, I design as a
 “ Present to the *Tholsel*, after I have expell’d those noxious
 “ Animals, the Aldermen, from it’s Precincts! — and,
 “ as for *this* last, I bequeath it, for ever, to mine own
 “ Family, as a sacred Depositum, and as the sole standing
 “ Model, and Pattern, whereby all such Pieces (whether
 “ Pictures, Medals, Busts, or Statues) shall hereafter
 “ be done, which grateful Posterity shall, in all succeed-
 “ ing Ages, devote to my Memory.”

I will not trouble you with a Description of the distinc-
 tive Marks of this last mention’d Picture of our Friend,
 how much soever his Admirers may think Posterity con-
 cern’d in the Knowledge of them. But, I must confess
 to you, that I was so very sensibly touch’d at this excessive
 Reverie of his, that, instantly stepping into his Shop, I
 order’d his Apprentice to measure me out a large Dose of
 Hellebore, without letting him know that I intended it
 for his Master; and, upon my Return to him, I very
 easily, without his Knowledge, mix’d it up in a Glas of
 Wine that stood before him, he being all the while im-
 mersed

mersed in profound Contemplation of his fancy'd Immortality, with his Eyes unalterably fix'd on the favourite Picture; but, having patted him on the Shoulder (a part whereon I knew the Catchpole's unhallow'd hand had been often lay'd) I at once awakened him from his Trance, and then taking up another Glass of Wine, and wishing Immortal Honour to his Name, I soon prevail'd upon him to swallow his Potion, without Suspicion or Diffidence. After this, he immediately fell to musing, and gazing again, and as I did not care to be present at the Operation of my Medicine, which I guessed would quickly ensue, I took that Opportunity of leaving the Room.

But, how agreeably was I surprized, the next Day, to find that my Hellebore had so far the desired Effect upon him, that, growing at once both sensible, and ashamed, of his late Extravagance, he began to apply himself seriously to his Business; tho' I must confess, not without, now and then, betraying some slight Symptoms of his former Distemper. And this good Effect did, in Truth, continue much longer than I expected it would; and might have continued to this Day, had not that memorable Disaster, which beset him soon after in the very Exercise of his Profession, so violently shock'd his already enfeebled Brains, as to deprive him of all Power of recovering ever since (except in some short Intervals) the little Reason he was then possessed of; and so greatly were his Faculties impair'd by that Shock (his Memory in particular) that he could never since be made to recollect even the Name of the * Surgeon, to whose extraordinary Skill, and daily, gratuitous Attendance on him, for more than six Months, he owes, under God, what Sight he has left, and perhaps his Life too into the Bargain. For when I have, at different Times, endeavour'd to rouse in him some faint Remembrance of that his signal Deliverance, by mentioning its most remarkable Circumstances, together with that Gentleman's Name, who had contributed so much towards it (and, indeed, towards extricating him out of many other former Distresses) he has, in Return, only wildly stared at me; or furiously sworn, that he never knew any such Person; much less
received

* Mr. D——y.

received any Favour at his *Hands*. And what undeniably shews, that this cannot proceed from Ingratitude, or an Affectation of Forgetfulness in him ; but that it is owing to the total Decay of his Memory, and Understanding, he, some Years after his Cure, desperately put himself into the Hands of a noted † Impostor, whom he himself had, but a short Time before, publicly exposed ; and, in this unhappy Delusion, he continued for the Space of some Months ; until a lucid Interval happening, he, at length, discover'd and own'd his Mistake with regard to the Impostor ; but never could be enough restored to his Reason, to acknowledge, and thank his best Benefactor beforemention'd.

It was in this distemper'd State of Mind, that he first enter'd into the famous Contest with the Aldermen of this City, in behalf of the Commons, whose Rights and Privileges, he fancy'd, they had invaded. I shall not pretend to decide that Controversy in Favour of either Party ; but this I am sure of, that it has been the Occasion of our poor Friend's scribbling, and publishing, such Things, under the Title of *Remonstrances*, *Apologies*, *Complaints*, &c. as, were the generality of his Readers proper Judges of such Matters, would have long since put it out of all Dispute, that the Author of them was quite devoid of Sense, and Reason, when he wrote them. And, indeed, had you been as intimately conversant with him, as I was, at that Juncture ; had you been present to observe his frantic Looks, and Gestures, while his Brain was boiling over with that rancorous Froth, which you now see so plentifully diffused thro' those Pamphlets, I doubt not but you would have readily join'd me in an earnest Request I then made to his Friends, to have him ty'd, and treated in every Respect, as he had been some Years before, in *London*, in the like melancholy Situation. But what grieved me most of all, at that Time, was, that when he would now, and then, vouchsafe to attend personally on his Patients, he was apt, in his Conversation with them, to rave on the Rhapsodies he was then writing, and to return such strange, impertinent, and romantic Answers out of them, to all Questions that were ask'd him, as filled his Hearers with the greatest Astonishment ;

insomuch

inſomuch, that whatever Complaints the Sick made of the Diſeaſes, under which their natural Bodies then actually labour'd, he conſtantly apply'd to the Body politic of the Nation; and has frequently, on theſe Occaſions, made Uſe of thoſe very Phraſes, which we now ſee in theſe Pamphlets apply'd to that Subject. I will conclude this Letter with one odd Paſſage of this Kind, out of many which I have had the Mortification to be Witneſs of.

While he was meditating his famous * Apology for the Rights, and Privileges, of the Commons, and Citizens of *D-bl-n*, he was call'd to adminiſter a Clyſter to a certain † Alderman of this City, who had not then diſcharged him from doing that neceſſary Office to himſelf, and Family, as he ſoon after did. I ſhall not trouble you with a recital of the numerous Exclamations, Ejaculations, and Curſes, which he occaſionally utter'd, as his Patient happen'd, in the Courſe of his Complaints, to mention the Words CONSTITUTION, CORRUPTION, — NOXIOUS HUMOURS, or the like. I will only obſerve to you, that upon the Alderman's earneſtly deſiring him to contrive ſomewhat for him, that might hereafter prevent his being ſo often neceſſitated to undergo that odious Operation, by conſtantly keeping him open and FREE; poor *Ch—s* having, at that Inſtant, a very different IDEA of the Word FREE impreſs'd on his Brain, from what his Patient had, or deſign'd he ſhould have, cries out, in thoſe very Words which we now find in that Apology, † “ LIBERTY, my Friend, that beſt “ Gift of Heaven, is thine Inheritance, granted, indeed, “ to all the Sons of *Adam* in common, by the firſt Law “ implanted in Man's Boſom, and eſtabliſh'd, and con- “ firm'd, to Mankind, by the great Charter of civil and “ religious Liberty;” and, at the ſame Time, laying his Hand on the naked Buttock of his Patient (at which he had juſt before levell'd his Machine, tho' on account of his Inattention, a little beſide the Mark) this, (adds he)

Still
Intituled, *Divelina Libera*.

† A—h.

† *Divel. Lib. Page 5.* But it appears in that Pamphlet with ſome little Alteration thus, “ LIBERTY, my Bre-
“ thren, is your Inheritance.”

still raving, (as in that Pamphlet, on **POLITICAL FREEDOM**) § “ this is the Stock on which Arts, Sciences, and Trade can be ingrafted, grow, and bring forth all **DELICIOUS**, and desirable Fruits! This is an inexhaustible Treasure, from whence all the **GOODS**, all the **NECESSARIES** of mortal Life can be drawn.” — At that Instant he push’d his Clyster-pipe so forcibly against an unperforated, but very sensible part, that the Alderman set up a most piteous Roar; and, finding himself wet with the Contents discharged (which he, in his Pain and Fright, imagined to be Blood gushing from a Wound he had received) broke forth into most opprobrious Language against our Friend, threaten’d to have him disfranchised; and had even the ill-nature to impute (how unjustly you now see) this Mistake of his to the Diminution of his Sight, which was occasion’d by the Dis- after I have already mention’d. This Abuse, together with the cruel Jest, and Sneers, of some that were present, did, for once, so abash, and confound our Friend, that falling back upon a Close-stool, that stood behind him, he, for a few Minutes, remain’d entirely speechless; till raising himself on a sudden, and waving in the Air his empty Clyster-Bag, which he, still unknowing, retain’d in his Hand, “ when Sampson” (cry’d he aloud, still following the train of those wild Imaginations he was possess’d with) “ was of his Sight and Strength bereaved, and

§ Ibid. Page 6.

“ He but since alter’d this Passage considerably, for thus we find it in *Divellina Libera*, Page 77. “ When Sampson was Robb’d of his Strength and Sight, and led Captive in Triumph to divert those hateful Inlanders, the Philistines, the World applauded his bringing them to Destruction. — So shall I, if I am to be deprived of the Honour and Power of a **FREE CITIZEN** and **COMMONER**, and led blindfold to make Sport for our Philistines, if ever my Prayer is heard, and I recover my Strength, I will lay hold on the Pillars of their banquetting House (the Tholstel), and overturn the whole Frame of their ill-founded Fabrick, tho’ I myself should perish in the Ruin.”

“ and led a Captive, the *Philistines* Sport, he brought
 “ Destruction on them ; and the World applauded him
 “ therefore ! — So I, if of the Power, and Honour
 “ stript, of a FREE-CITIZEN, and COMMONER —
 “ If led thus blindfold, to make Sport for these *Phili-*
 “ *stines*, will grasp the Pillars of their Banqueting
 “ House, and shake the Frame of their ill-founded Fa-
 “ brick, tho’ I myself should perish in the Ruins !”
 Having said this, he stalk’d majestically out of the Room,
 and left me greatly afflicted (amidst the loud Laughter of
 all the rest that were present) at his, as it then seem’d to
 me, irremediable Misfortune.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

F I N I S.



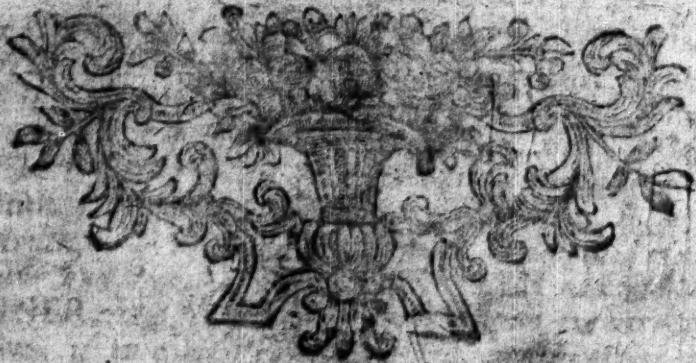
"and led a Captive, the Painter's Sport, he brought
 "Destruction on them; and the World applauded him
 "therefore! — So I, if of the Power, and Honour
 "of a FREE CITIZEN, and COMMONER —
 "It led thus blindfold, to make Sport for these Follies
 "Wine, will grasp the Rills of their Bandwaggon
 "Horse, and make the frame of their ill-founded Pa-
 "trick, tho' I myself should perish in the Ruins!"
 Having said this, he fell back out of the Room,
 and left me greatly affected (amidst the loud laughter of
 all the rest that were present) at his, as it then seem'd to
 me, irremediable Misfortune.

I am

Dear Sir,

Yours &c.

T. W. S.



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